

State Advisory Committee (SAC) for Children with Disabilities
NH Department of Education
November 5, 2014
Room 15
4:30-7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Bonnie Dunham (Chair), Maureen Tracey, Catherine Meister, Janet Reed, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Donna Curtin, Jack Curtin, Karen Rosenberg, Tom Grinley, Eileen Liponis, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Joan Holleran, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Michelle Rosado, Patrick Curtin, Heidi Cloutier, Ellen Boudreau, Adrienne Evans

Guest(s): Elizabeth S., Lori Fosdick (Special Education Teacher: SAU 8), Santina Thibedeau (Administrator, Bureau of Special Education), Lauren Morando Rhim (representing charter schools)

Agenda Item I: Welcome

- Bonnie – Began meeting at 4:35pm – Requested attendees introduce themselves
- Review of October Meeting Minutes
 - Corrections to October Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept/approve (Maureen), seconded (Sue)
 - Candace - Page 2 – Candace (a not i – spelling of name)
 - Candace - Page 2 – Absent Parent(s) Subcommittee re-cap should read: NHDOE take action to develop and implement policies relating to the coordination of services for students with disabilities who are vulnerable to having behavior disabilities due to absent parents
 - Spelling of Maureen's last name to be corrected: Tracey
 - Spelling of Catherine's name to be corrected: not Katherine
 - Page 1 – VLACS not VLAX
 - Page 4 – Under Karen's bullets, needs to be a comment reading: distributed 2 summary reports of the investigations done by DRC regarding Lakeview
 - All in favor of accepting as revised
- No Public Comment
- Eileen nominating new SAC member: Lauren Morando Rhim – as a representative of charter schools (seconded by Kerri-Lynn) (will revisit and vote at December meeting)
- Bonnie – Motion to Congratulate Kestrel on graduating high school, (Donna seconded), approved by committee

Agenda Item II: Legislative Update and Updates from SAC Liaisons

- No new changes from October meeting, at December meeting there will be a more official Legislative update
- Initial proposal regarding restraints and seclusion went out – will discuss results of the proposal at either the December or January meeting
- Both House Representatives for SAC will be replaced
 - Rick Ladd – will be sending letter asking to be replaced (unable to dedicate enough time), SAC will get new member from the House when his term ends
 - Beth Arsenault was not re-elected (as of November 3, 2014)
- No SAC Liaison updates at this time
 - Motion to approve no new updates (Heidi) & seconded (Michelle) – approved by all SAC members
- Donna – Mentioned son in high school, and his ELO use/experience (SAU 27 - Litchfield)
 - 1st ELO his sophomore year for a Historical Society project (438 hours) & 1 credit earned
 - 2nd ELO – SAT tutoring (200+ hours) & 1 credit earned

Agenda Item III: Old Business

- Re-reviewed Commissioner Barry's thank you letter to SAC (first mentioned at October monthly meeting)
 - Bonnie asked everyone to take home, review, they can discuss their thoughts at the December meeting
- Maureen – introduced Mary Ellen who spoke about "Light It Up Blue Day"
 - April – Autism awareness month
 - Goal this year to change the lights at the State House to blue to celebrate autism (creates awareness with everyone in the community)
 - Allows for people's awareness of the seriousness of autism and the facts about Autism
 - Met with Expanded Cabinet – felt this was not enough, Commissioner Barry recommended meeting with State Education Board to spread awareness & get permission to change the lights to blue & get more information to schools about the month's awareness
 - Ellen Boudreau suggested that there should be some sort of competition for students (either art or essay) to promote the topic
 - Joan – likes the idea of the recognized essay or art to promote awareness – thinks that SAC should approach the Commissioner and ask that districts have a district wide contest for students – those selected (5) could be recognized by the Governor – thinks it should be an annual thing (not just in education) – would like to see the topic taken to a higher level (aka the Commissioner)

- Mary Ellen asked Santina if the Bureau specifically could hold this contest
 - Santina's concern was the privacy of the students with disabilities
 - Santina suggested that if SAC feels this is an unmet need, they put together a proposal to present to the Commissioner and the Department of Education can discuss as a whole entity
 - Candace mentioned that, being a person who grew up with a disability, she does not feel it is a good idea – might hurt or effect the self-esteem of those with autism
 - Janet touched on a "Flash Mob" idea – on a positive note, this could mean huge media attention (students can all participate in the chaos of the dancing and make the connection to the chaos and confusion of life)
 - Will be revisited at December meeting (members can bring ideas, suggestions as to what can be done to support the cause)
- Maureen: spoke about holding 2 public forums (first mentioned at the September retreat), where the public can come in and have a discussion in regards to what's working, what's not, and what are your ideas (Unmet Needs of Students with Disabilities)
 - Bonnie motioned that SAC hold one public forum up north (Plymouth) and another part of the State at some point this year, seconded (Donna) – all in favor of pursuing with more details (ideas will be drawn up at December meeting)
 - Donna – suggested maybe using social media to address the issue (will write out description and bring to December meeting)
- Dan, Candace & Catherine: recommendations from September Retreat – Children with Disabilities with Absent Parents
 - The NHDOE should take intentional steps to identify and incorporate Tier II interventions and supports to address the unmet needs of these very vulnerable and "at risk" children;
 - Utilize a statewide approach to identify children who are at risk due to having absent parents, and to proactively meet both their academic and social skills needs (including behavioral needs, if applicable)
 - Lynda suggested that the Office of Integrated Programs at the NHDOE might be able to help or provide resources (if needed/asked)

Agenda Item IV: Update from the Bureau

- Santina
 - IDEA - changed how school districts can access their funds, subcommittee met and revised 10/22/14 – procedural safeguards has gone out in memo format (Updated Procedural Safeguard)
 - The updated Safeguards are with the Bureau's vendor being translated into several languages.
 - Funds – 2 pots are disbursed to districts (one in July and one in October), DOE notifies the Districts in one memorandum
 - A reduction in IDEA funds that districts receive was made by OSEP for the entire State – the reduction amount isn't real significant

- Announced that the NHDOE is working with Granite State College to have a Teacher Prep Program for Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing and Teachers of the Visually Impaired (there is a need for both in the State)
 - The Bureau has supported UMASS Boston's programs for these teachers, the new programs will be more convenient and local for NH teachers
- Smarter Balanced – new statewide assessment will be rolled out Spring of 2015
 - Discussed students with IEPs and the effects the test may have on them
 - Described the assessment & reviewed the assessment's *Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines*
 - Highlighted "Universal Tools" (resources/tools that every child will receive from the test) – mentioned how a lot of these tools are currently found in students IEPs
 - Talked about Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and how it connects to the assessment – it's a "universal" way of instruction
 - Mentioned NH workshop being held on UDL – December 9, 2014 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH from 8:30am – 3:00pm
 - Noted that UDL is not specifically a special education issue – states that all students with or without disabilities have the potential to benefit
 - Under UDL a lot of the student individuality in regards to assistance will no longer need to be put in an IEP but rather automatically provided for all students
 - Accommodations – usually only seen in IEPs & 504s – SBAC has different "accommodations" than what the natural thought of what accommodations are or what we in NH are used to (just wanted everyone to be aware of the language differences)
 - Santina will discuss Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) – the new alternate assessment at the December meeting
- Independent Organization for Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance -
 - Santina reviewed PowerPoint regarding the topic
 - Spoke about the process (who, what, & results slide)
 - Bureau was questioned if the State had a private vendor, they did - Data Driven Enterprises (DDE) – as of July 1, 2015 the State will monitor their own programs – no longer will have a private vendor (contract ends June 30, 2015)
 - The Bureau created a survey requesting SAC member's input to add into the new RFP
 - Asked SAC Members to distribute as well to any groups or organizations they are affiliated with – in hopes of feedback and suggestions as to what should be stated in the new RFP
 - Survey responses due by November 21, 2014
 - Ruth Littlefield is the Bureau contact regarding the topic

Agenda Item V: Subcommittees Did Not Meet (not enough time) – tabled until next month's meeting (December 3, 2014)

- Bonnie made the following statements and changes:
 - Gaps in SAC Memberships – looking for people to represent parents of children with disabilities, juvenile facilities, and house representatives – 37 Members all together (17 considered a quorum)
 - Kerri & Ellen need to be added to Absent Parents Subcommittee
 - Need to check and see if Sarah Cooley is still interested in being a SAC member (has not attended a meeting in a few months)
 - The Curtin Family (Donna, Jack, and Patrick) as well as Maureen need to be added to Secondary Transition Subcommittee (remove Ellen)

Agenda Item VI: Reports from Subcommittees, with Group Input/Discussion (not enough time) – tabled until next month's meeting (December 3, 2014)

Agenda Item VII: New Business

- Bonnie – At the (December) meeting a quest speaker to speak about SWIFT and the impacts the program has on NH (Heidi going to send out link about SWIFT as well)
- Flier distributed for presentation on *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking* being held at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord, NH on November 14th from 7:30 – 8:30pm – sponsored by the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth, and Families
- Maureen – mentioned UNH's Institute on Disability, START Program (Consultation and Training in Crisis Prevention, Systems Collaboration, and Support for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Needs)
 - New home opened in Boscawen, NH called "The Start Center" – staffed out of Community Bridges (Michelle to send information about program)
- Maureen – mentioned in Merrimack, NH a Parent Group brought in Lynn Lyons to speak about understanding kids & parents with anxiety and having a learning disability (presentation can be found on YouTube: *Anxious Parents, Anxious Kids*)
- Bully Act – does not go into the adult world – members want to know who monitors colleges in regards to bullying – (Karen said to contact DRC) – Bonnie to forward information regarding bullying and harassment to SAC members
- Heidi Announcements:
 - November 15th from 10:00am – 4:30pm – the Education Equity Summit is being held at the Holiday Inn, Concord, NH
 - UNH's Institute on Disability – 2014 Health Report just came out
 - NH Transition Community of Practice VIII being held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH on November 18th from 8:30am – 3:00pm

Agenda Item VIII: Adjourn

- Janet motioned to adjourn meeting, Michelle seconded (6:55pm)
- Next meeting December 3, 2014 (snow date 12/10/2014)